

This may be done under control of a software 74 in one embodiment of the present invention.

While the present invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, those skilled  
5 in the art will appreciate numerous modifications and variations therefrom. It is intended that the appended claims cover all such modifications and variations as fall within the true spirit and scope of this present invention.

What is claimed is:

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1. A processor-based system comprising:
  - a display;
  - a user operable element positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the element, said operable element having a non-monotonic response to user actuation; and
  - a switch operatively coupled to the operable element.
2. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.
3. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.
4. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.
5. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.
6. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a lens positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the lens.

1           7. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2 further comprising a light pipe positioned over the display  
3 to enable viewing of the display through the light pipe.

1           8. A processor-based system as recited in claim 10  
2 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

1           9. An apparatus comprising:  
2           a processor;  
3           a display operatively coupled to said processor;  
4           a user operable element positioned over the  
5 display to enable viewing of the display through the  
6 element, said operable element having a non-monotonic  
7 response to user actuation; and,  
8           a switch mechanically connected to the operable  
9 element and electrically coupled to the processor.

1           10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein the  
2 user-operable element is a push button.

1           11. A processor-based system comprising:  
2           a touch screen display;  
3           a user operable element positioned over the  
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the  
5 element, said operable element having a non-monotonic  
6 response to user actuation; and,

7 a contactor operatively coupled to the operable  
8 element such that actuation of said element causes contact  
9 with the touch screen display.

1 12. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1 13. A processor-based system comprising:  
2 a display;  
3 a user-operable element positioned over the  
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the  
5 element;  
6 a switch operatively coupled to said operable  
7 element; and  
8 a resilient element connected to said operable  
9 element such that operation of said operable element is  
10 resisted with a non-monotonic force.

1 14. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13  
2 wherein the resilient element is a rubber dome.

1 15. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13  
2 wherein the resilient element is a coil spring which breaks  
3 out of column in response to compressive force.

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1        16. A processor-based system comprising:  
2            a display;  
3            a user-operable element having a lens positioned  
4 over said display to enable viewing of the display through  
5 the lens; and,  
6            a switch operatively coupled to said operable  
7 element.

1        17. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16  
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1        18. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16  
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1        19. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1        20. A processor-based system comprising:  
2            a display;  
3            a user-operable element having a light pipe  
4 positioned over said display to enable viewing of the  
5 display through the light pipe; and,  
6            a switch operatively coupled to said operable  
7 element.

1        21. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1        22. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1        23. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1        24. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.

1        25. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

1        26. A method comprising:  
2            providing a user-operable element for  
3 installation over a display;  
4            providing a transparent part on the user-operable  
5 element that allows a portion of the display to be viewed  
6 through said element; and  
7            creating a non-monotonic response to actuation of  
8 said element.

1        27. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a transparent part includes providing a lens.

1        28. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a transparent part includes providing a light pipe.

1        29. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a user-operable element includes providing a push button.

1        30. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a user-operable element for installation over a display  
3 includes providing an element for installation over a touch  
4 screen display.

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